(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTERS OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). Government have not issued any statutory directive or entered into any written agreement with any sector with regard to the stock to be maintained. However, based on informal consultations among the concerned sectors and the understanding reached amongst them, untii recently a stock reserve equivalent to two months' consumption had been adopted while calculating the deficit to be met by imports. No imports are expected to be made during the current year.

Narcotics Smuggling

1561. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed with the neighbouring countries to launch a joint drive to approched smugglers engaged in the smuggling of narcotics; and

(b) whether the Government have also signed the United Nations Anti-Drug Campaign?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) There is no formal agreement for joint drives against narcotics smugglers, but arrangements for exchange of intelligence and cooperation in investigations are available on bilateral basis with Pakistan and through the aegis of the SAARC with other neighbouring countries.

(b) India is a party to all United Nations conventions on the subject.

Restructuring of NTC Mills

1562. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "resources for golden hand shake; NTC asked to sell land, machinery" appearing in the Economic Times dated November 13, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether there is no other way out to provide compensation to the workers except to dispose of the assets;

(d) if so, the reasons for such a situation; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure the recurrence of such a situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRHY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AHSOK GEHLOT): (a). Yes Sir,

(b) to (d). National Textile Corporation has submitted 8th plan proposals which inter-alia envisages amalgamation etc. of certain unviable mills. These proposals are under corporation at different levels with reference to various implications including workers compensation.

(e) To ensure non-recurrence of such a situation in future, it is proposed to make the NTC mills viable through modernisation, amalgamation etc.

[*Translation*]

Enquiry Regarding ST. Kitts Bank accounts.

1563. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minster of FINANCE be pleased to

refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 7016 on September 13, 1991 and state:

(a) whether the enquiry on the basis of the FIR filed against some persons concerning St. Kitts Bank Accounts has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the enquiry is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a). No Sir,

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) it is not possible to indicate as time frame for the completion of investigations.

[*English*]

Strike by RRB's Employees

1564 SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:
SHRI GAYA PRASAD KORI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Regional Rural Banks went on nationwide strike on August 20, 1991 and the work of loan distribution is held-up at present;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken on the long standing demands of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has reported that a section of the RRB employees had gone on strike on 20-08-1991. NABARD has nor received any report regarding holding up of loan distribution work.

(b) As per the notice of strike the All India Gramin Bank Workers' Organisation (AIGBWO) have, inter-alia, demanded formation of Rural Bank of India, rectification of alleged anomalies in fixation of pay in sponsor bank pay scales, re-categorisation of branches, regularisation of messengers, payment of arrears in cash, grant of compensatory allowance for serving in rural areas, etc.

(c). There is no proposal to establish a Rural Bank of India. The National Industrial Tribunal setup to decide the pay, allowance and other benefits payable to the employees of the Regional Rural Banks, recommended grant of sponsor bank pay scales but the equation of posts and the fitment formula was left to be decided by Govt. Government had accordingly appointed an Equation Committee to equate the posts in RRB's with those of the sponsor banks. The award of the Tribunal and the recommendations of the Equation Committee have been accepted in toto. The Tribunal has recommended that messengers be given regular pay scales from the date they have been employed on regular basis. Accordingly it has been left to the chairman of

Financial Difficulties to Forces

1565. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the report captioned "The Armed Forces Chinks in the Armour" appearing in 'India Today', November 15, 1991.

(b) if so, the factual position in this regard; and